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Summary

Title

Kitāb Gharā’ib al-funūn wa-mulaḥ al-‘uyūn (كتاب غرائب الفنون وملح العيون) ('The Book of Curiosities')

Language

Arabic

Place of Origin

Egypt

Date Statement

1190–1210

Description

Incomplete late 12th or early 13th century copy, probably made in Egypt, of an anonymous work compiled in Egypt between AD 1020 and 1050. Contains a number of unique illustrations and rare texts. Erroneously attributed to ‘Arabānī, ‘Abd al-Ghanī ibn Husām al-Dīn, d. 1450.

Contents: Divided into two books, one on celestial matters, one on the Earth.

Extent: ff. 48. Size of page: 324 x 245 mm. Size of written area: 291 x 226 mm.

Layout: 27 lines per page. Frame-ruled text area.

Hand: Medium-large Naskh script in dense black ink, with headings in red.

Decoration: 23 maps and diagrams.

Binding: Disbound, binding retained. 18th or 19th century Ottoman binding in poor condition.

Provenance

Bought from Sam Fogg, 2002.

Record Origin

Description in part based on Savage-Smith, E. and Rapoport, Y. (2013), An Eleventh-Century Egyptian Guide to the Universe, pp. 2-4.

Collection

Arabic Manuscripts and Maps

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